

Division of Medicaid Forced To Halt Provider Payments at the End of the Month

***Division of Medicaid to Federal Judge:
“We estimate we will run out of money to pay Medicaid
provider services by February 28.”***

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Contact: Francis Rullan, Division of Medicaid, 359-6078

(Jackson, Miss.) The Mississippi Division of Medicaid told a federal judge today it estimates it will run out of money to reimburse Mississippi Medicaid providers by February 28, due to current cash shortfalls. The Division of Medicaid, which announced a \$268 million shortfall in December, will have spent its entire state appropriation before the end of the month.

The Division of Medicaid was appearing before U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate in a status hearing regarding the state's Poverty Level Aged and Disabled program which was extended until the end of the month.

Mississippi Division of Medicaid Executive Director Dr. Warren Jones said: “There is no more important health care issue in the State of Mississippi than the life-saving drugs and treatments Mississippi Medicaid provides for over 780,000 Mississippians. However, the simple truth of the matter is that we run out of money this month barring legislative action.”

The Division will begin sending letters to 14,000 Mississippi doctors, pharmacists, hospitals, nursing home facilities and other Medicaid providers across the state to inform them of the program's financial status. “Despite this crisis, the Division of Medicaid is asking all of our providers to continue providing services to our beneficiaries for the entire month of February.”

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